DCAM AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2008









Girls Detention Center

Westborough State Hospital Campus, Westborough, MA Completion Date: June 2007 Project Size: 49,039 GSF Total Project Costs \$19,101,000

Design Team

Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc.
Architecture; Civil, HVAC & Electrical Engineering;
Landscape Architecture; Interior Design
Project Director - Robert C. Hicks
Project Manager - Lorraine B. Finnegan
Project Architect - Shahe Nalbandian

Consultants

Voorhis Associates, Inc. – Detention Programmer

DMC Engineering, Inc. – Structural Engineer

Architectural Engineers, Inc. – Plumbing and Fire protection Engineers

Faithful + Gould – Cost Estimating

Contractor

G&R Construction, Inc., Quincy, MA Robert Morel - President Dennis Morel - Vice President

DCAM Team

David B. Perini, Commissioner
Michael L. McKimmey, Deputy Commissioner

ProgrammingMichael B. Williams, Director

Robin Luna, Project Manager

Design and Construction

Michael J. Lambert, Director

Donald R. Mailloux, Deputy Director

James Ward, Project Manager

Thomas Morse, Project Engineer

User Agency - Department of Youth Services

Maureen McIntyre, Resident Engineer

Robert Gilligan, Director of Capital Planning
Dan Woods, Director of Capital Outlays & Procurement
Barbara Morton, Central Region Director
John De Benedetto, Facility Administrator for Central Region
Laura Prescott, Facility Director















Zara Cisco Brough Center - 2008 Study, Design & Construction – Winner

Goal

Rehabilitation in a safe and secure environment.

Program

- Short-term residential detention facility for 56 female residents between the ages of 12 and 21.
- Residential character versus institutional
- Fully accessible, universal design
- The facility was designed to achieve LEED
 Silver certification, and DYS has incorporated
 sustainability into the educational curriculum.

Design

Each interconnected, but individual, building component features generous daylighting and an absence of the traditional symbols of a lock-up. Four separate housing wings each accommodate 14 girls and evoke the feeling of a college dormitory. They share two day rooms and a central commons area that are also linked to a visitors' reception area and lobby, client intake areas, classrooms, health services, cafeteria, and gymnasium. Secure outdoor spaces are provided for passive and active recreation, including an outdoor exercise area and patios for each unit with resident-maintained gardens.

Within the four dormitory units, female residents live in a combination of single and double rooms, where sloped ceilings reflect the pitched roof above and enhance the sense of space within these 70 and 100 square foot spaces. In each room, windows achieve security through frequently spaced mullions instead of traditional bars or security screens, and nightlights eliminate the total darkness which can exacerbate night fears associated with a history of sexual abuse. Color variations individualize each unit as a smaller community. To further normalize living areas, each residential unit contains its own shower and toilet rooms along with grooming areas.

Staff and resident safety and suicide prevention was foremost on the minds of the design team, since, if there is a way to harm themselves, some residents will find it. Everything from the door hardware, to shower curtains, to toilet roll holders was reviewed. Sloping window sills ensure that girls have no ledge to jump from; trim-less doors to the bedrooms eliminate all loopable objects; fully divided window panes prevent materials being slipped between panes for use later or for looping.

The Center houses the DYS Pelletier Assessment Program and the Robert F Kennedy Rotenberg School for Girls, and was constructed on time and on budget, having been occupied in June of 2007. The building was named after a long-time local activist and leader of the Nipmuc Indian tribe, Zara Cisco Brough, Princess White Flower.

Dedication

At its dedication on June 5, 2007 Chief Walter Vickers, Chief of Nipmuc Indian Nation, and Shelleigh Wilcox of the Cisco Family spoke of the importance of having this facility named after a woman with such strong beliefs in the community and in the education of women. Zara Cisco Brough was vice president of an engineering and ecological company, a drafter, a designer, a technical writer, a supervisor of government

projects. She was a poet, an historian, a planning board member, a cemetery commission member and director of the board for numerous trusts and societies. As a woman who overcame adversity in her life, she is an icon for the girls whose lives have led them to DYS placement, and who have been fortunate enough to be placed in a facility where, with the help of the caring staff, anything is possible.

